

February 2720, 2023

Written testimony submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee in support of SB 4 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore and members of the Housing Committee

My name is Patricia Spring. I am a resident of Moodus and a member of St Patrick and St Anthony Church. My congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), a broad based organization of 49 faith institutions working together on this issue.

I am testifying in support of a rent cap and in support of SB 4 with amendments to better protect tenants.

A rent cap if no more than 2.5%

I spent my 40 year career developing and advocating for affordable housing in the state of Connecticut through non-profit housing development. In the beginning of that career I had the naive belief that during the course of my work the affordable housing needs of Connecticut would be met. Obviously, despite efforts on the part of many nonprofit developers the goal was not reached. As a matter of fact the need for affordable housing has grown in this state and the resources to provide much needed new units has diminished.

We must preserve the affordable rental housing stock we have and stop pricing those units out reach of those it was intended to serve. I have watched people who have two jobs, and are struggling to meet basic needs for their family, become unable to provide the security of a home due to landlords astronomically increasing their rents.

As a christian, I take seriously the mandate to house the poor. As a resident of Connecticut I believe we morally need to address the needs of our community. I ask that you pass this legislation so ensure we take our commitment seriously.

Thank you,  
Patricia Spring  
Moodus, CT